GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:20
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2002
GAS SUPPLY TO RCF
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF) has been adversely affected due to severe shortage of gas supply by Gas authority of India Limited (GAIL);

(b) if so, the details of gas the GAIL was to supply to RCF as per agreement and reasons for short supply of gas by GAIL;

(c) whether the matter has been taken up by the Government with GAIL;

(d) if so, whether GAIL have agreed to supply the gas as per contracted terms; and

(e) if not, the manner in which it is proposed to ensure that the production of RCF is not affected further due to shortage of gas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. The production of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) has been adversely affected due to severe shortage of gas supply by GAIL/ONGC. It has been indicated by GAIL that the availability in the Uran region is far less as compared to the contracted quantity. As against the total contracted quantity of natural gas, in respect of the consumers ex-Uran region, which is of the order of 16.6 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD), the gas supplies currently are in the range of 9 MMSCMD. GAIL has been supplying gas to the consumers in this region making reduced supplies, with priority to feedstock consumers.

RCF has a contract with GAIL to supply 1.8 MMSCMD of gas to Trombay plant of RCF and 3 MMSCMD of gas to Thal for fertilizer production on firm basis and 0.6 MMSCMD on fall- back basis.The problem being faced by RCF plants on this score has been taken up with the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.Keeping in view the continuous problems being faced in supply of gas in the Uran region in the last few years, RCF has taken various measures to use alternate fuel/feedstock which includes installation of naphtha feed supplement, boiler conversion to naphtha, auxiliary boiler/steam super heater and revamp of natural gas compressor. In the long run, the possibility of using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) would be considered.